

are subject to brutal and ongoing repression from the government. Perhaps "the world's largest democracy" could learn a thing or two from the meeting in New York.

We should stop our aid to India and we should demand self-determination for all the people of South Asia so that they can live in peace, freedom, harmony, and prosperity, as they do here in America and other Western democracies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the article from India-West into the RECORD.

[From India-West, June 2, 2006]

SIKH, CATHOLIC LEADERS MEET IN NEW YORK
(By a Staff Reporter)

Representatives of the World Sikh Council-America Region met with Catholic leaders in New York in an all-day event hosted by the Religions for Peace-USA. The Sikh group has said.

Dr. Manohar Singh, the group's chairperson, and Dr. Tarunjit Singh, chair of the group's Interfaith Committee, led the Sikhs.

The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' delegation was headed by Rev. James Massa, executive director of its Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs.

Monsignor Felix Machado, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue at the Vatican in Rome, was a special guest and adviser.

Two observers of Religions for Peace attended the May 20 meeting.

"The universal message of Sikhism respects pluralism and we welcome our Catholic friends with open arms," Manohar Singh said. "This dialogue is an opportunity for our communities to begin a conversation at the highest level on how we may be able to work with each other in trust and friendship to make this world a more peaceful and just place for all."

Machado responded by saying the Catholic Church appreciates this dialogue with the Sikh community. "Sikhs respect us, not suspect us," he said.

Sikh and Catholic leaders expressed shared concerns over the challenges faced by immigrant communities in the U.S., the curtailment of religious freedom and human rights in South Asia, and the challenges of secularism to both religious communities.

The participants said they would meet again this year with a focus on "Divinity, Humanity and Creation." They also pledged to continue to meet at least once a year through a working committee.

After the meeting, the Catholic and Sikh participants visited the Mata Sahib Kaur Gurdwara Sahib in Glen Cove, N.Y., joined the evening service and partook of langar meal.

A TRIBUTE TO STANLEY HENRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Stanley Henry, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us today to honor a man who has exhibited the will to succeed, and the insatiable drive to bring his goals into fruition.

Stanley Henry is a man that went from working menial night jobs and attending high

school during the day, to owning his own hardware distribution store and contracting firm and being one of the most respected men in Brooklyn.

Mr. Henry was born in British Guyana, South America in 1945. While he attended the Mackenzie Government and Technical High School during the day, he worked nights, a feat especially commendable for a teenager. After graduating in 1965, Mr. Henry worked as a construction apprentice with the Canadian Bauxite Company. In 1967, he migrated to Brooklyn. Not needing much time to adapt to a new culture, Mr. Henry graduated from The Delhanty Institute of Structural Design within 2 years. He then secured a position with Ewell W. Finley Engineer PC and for the next 10 years, Mr. Henry stayed with this company. While still employed with the company, Mr. Henry continued his education. He graduated from both the Institute of Design Construction adding to his structural engineering experience and from NYC Technical College to enhance his administrative skills.

Mr. Henry later moved on to establish Annie Henry General Hardware, his own building materials supply business named after his beloved mother. The name was later changed to Henry Wholesale & Resale Distributors, LLC. He is also the proud owner of Henry Builders Inc., a contracting firm that not only knows the people that it serves, but the people it serves knows and loves him. Mr. Henry's businesses have been a fixture on Broadway for over 35 years and he is affectionately known as the "Mayor of Broadway" and "The Master Builder."

Mr. Henry embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that is essential to any small business.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Stanley Henry as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Stanley Henry's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication and today we should recognize this man and pay homage to a life truly worth celebrating.

TRIBUTE TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER OF COLO- RADO

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Colorado, "The Center," on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. It is fitting that we recognize The Center for its record of extraordinary service in providing support and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, GLBT, communities in the 1st Congressional District and throughout Colorado.

The Center has been on the front lines of progress since its inception and has proven to be a powerful force in transforming the land-

scape of our State. Founded in Denver in 1976, The Center is a statewide, nonprofit community center and is one of the oldest organizations serving GLBT communities in the country. It is a powerful advocate on a broad range of issues that affect GLBT people in our State and is a catalyst for community organizing and providing needed support services.

Health and wellness is a key focus of The Center. Its Healthy Living Program offers extensive health care services including free HIV testing in conjunction with Denver Health, low-cost hepatitis vaccinations, free mammograms for uninsured women, health care provider referrals and access to mental health services. It also devotes sizable effort to community health education as well as disease prevention. The Lesbian Cancer Support Service strives to increase early detection and a higher rate of cancer survival in lesbian and bisexual women. The Center also maintains Rainbow Alley, a drop-in center designed for GLBT youth that provides health care services, counseling and referral. Youth have access to a medical clinic, computer lab, kitchen and the Terry Mangan Library, all of which are drug, alcohol, tobacco and hate free.

The Center's advocacy and legal initiatives have done much to advance the cause of civil liberty and provide necessary assistance to those who experience discrimination, harassment and unequal treatment. The Legal Initiatives Project, CLIP, was founded in 1992 to challenge a discriminatory amendment to the Colorado Constitution. Amendment II would have precluded any action by the State or local governments designed to protect GLBT people. Amendment II passed by a slim margin, but due to CLIP's leadership, a lawsuit was filed and injunctive relief was granted to prevent the measure from taking effect. The decision was appealed to the United States Supreme Court and a national coalition of civil rights groups joined CLIP to uphold the lower court ruling. In a historic decision—*Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620 (1996)—the Supreme Court held that Amendment II was unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In 2000, CLIP merged with The Center and became its legal services program. It accomplishes its mission through the CLIP Legal Hotline, civil rights litigation and mediation, media work and public education. CLIP focuses on cases and issues that move the civil rights agenda forward serve the most oppressed and disadvantaged in the GLBT communities.

We are indeed fortunate to have The Center in our community. It is an invaluable resource and I am deeply appreciative of the good work The Center does in addressing systemic inequalities and providing continuity and stability in the efforts to secure greater equality, justice and participation in our democracy. The Center has helped provide a place at the table for GLBT people. It has provided needed health and community services. In summary, The Center's leadership and engagement has made a real difference in peoples lives and thereby in the communities it serves.

Please join me in commending the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Colorado. It is the strong leadership and meaningful service it provides on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all of our people.